

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's Attorney Paul S. Dara (Reg. No. 52,793) on April 11, 2008 and was interviewed on May 28, 2008.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 14-15, 17, 21-23, and 26 are cancelled.

Claims 13 and 25 been amended as follow:

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A communications method, comprising:

coupling to a first host system, a self-configuring communications module that is adaptive to a variety of host systems, wherein the coupling comprises coupling a host interface port of the communications module to a media access control interface of the first host system;

operating an adaptive protocol handler of the communications module to identify a first communications protocol used by the first host system; and further operating the adaptive protocol handler for establishing communications between a the host interface port of the communications module and a network medium interface port of the communications module using the identified first communications protocol, thereby providing communications connectivity between the first host system and a network device that is communicatively coupled to the network medium interface port, the communications connectivity being provided from the media access control interface sequentially through the host interface port, the protocol handler, a transceiver of the communications module, and the network medium interface port.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A self-configuring communications module that is

adaptive to a variety of host systems, the communications module comprising:

a host interface port configured for coupling the communications module to a host communications controller of a first host system;

a network media interface port configured for coupling the communications module to a proximal end of a network medium, the network medium having a distal end coupled to a network device operable as a link partner to the first host system;

a transceiver coupled to the network media interface port for propagating bi-directional communications through the network media interface port; and an adaptive protocol handler configured for identifying a variety of communications protocols used by the variety of host systems, the adaptive protocol handler operable to communicate with the host communications controller for identifying a first communications protocol used by the first host system, the adaptive protocol handler further operable to use the identified first communications protocol for establishing a communications link between the first host system and the network device, the communications link comprising a communications path through the host interface port, the protocol handler, the transceiver, and the network medium interface port of the communications module.

ALLOW SUBJECT MATTER

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on April 11, 2008 and was interviewed on May 28, 2008.
2. Applicant amended claims 13 and 25, cancelled claims 14, 15, 17, 21-23, and 26.
3. Claims 1-13, 16, 18-20, 24, 25, and 27 (currently renumbered as claims 1-20) are allowable over the prior art of record.
4. This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104 (e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the Amendment filed on

April 11, 2008 and further amended claim limitations in the Examiner's Amendment (see attached) point out the reason claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuoc H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on 571-272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/679,562
Art Unit: 2143

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/Phuoc H Nguyen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2143

June 3, 2008